(MNP). The Central Government only supplements the efforts of the States by providing funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Powers have been delegated to the States to plan, sanction and implement their individual water supply schemes.

An amount of Rs. 7442.20 lakh has been released to Gujarat during 1999-2000 under ARWSP. In addition, an amount of Rs. 400 lakh has also been released to the State Government for implementation of ARWSP schemes in areas covered under the Desert Development Programme (DDP).

The Government of Gujarat has informed that they are facing scarcity of drinking water in 8666 villages of 138 talukas of 17 Districts. State Government has taken steps to supply drinking water to the affected areas. 1247 villages/ hamlets have been supplied with drinking water, wherein 205 villages/ habitations are of Kutch district.

The Government of Gujarat has formulated a drinking water scarcity master plan 1999-2000 covering 6312 villages, 69 towns and 3 Municipal Corporations amounting to Rs. 31088.38 lakh to overcome probable shortage of drinking water in the State.

Starvation in Kalahandi

2273. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people are still starving in Kalahandi as reported in 'Telegraph' on 21st February, 2000; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected.

Irregularities in distribution of houses under IAY

2274. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities have been found in the distribution of houses under Indira Awaas Yojana in Gram Panchayats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cases of depriving eligible persons from getting houses affluent people getting the houses in connivance with officers/employees have been detected; and